

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,072) (hereinafter "Lee") in view of Takahiko et al. (JP 11-038445) (hereinafter "Takahiko").

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 13-22 are allowed and claims 3, 5, 9 and 11 include allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 3 and amended independent claim 7 to incorporate the features of claim 9. Also, Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12 remain pending for further consideration with claims 13-22 being allowed.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Takahiko. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 7 becomes moot by incorporating the features of objected-to claim 3 into claim 1 and by incorporating the features of objected-to claim 9 into claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 7, as presently-amended, are in

condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is thus respectfully requested. Claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-12 are also in condition for allowance at least because of their dependencies from respective independent claims 1 and 7 as well as the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter.

With no other rejection pending, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-22 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusions

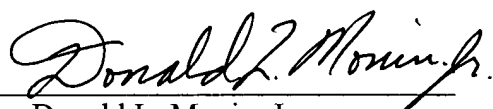
In view of the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit the issuance of a Notice of Allowability. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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